

Executive Summary
Self-Assessment Report of MSc. Statistics
Self-Assessment Cycle-I (2018-2019)

The Virtual University of Pakistan is providing world-class ICT-based distance education to the aspiring students in Pakistan and abroad and addressing simultaneously the acute shortage of qualified professors in the country. To fulfill the needs of Quality Assurance Agency of HEC for ranking the program, Department of Statistics initiated the Self-Assessment process for MSc. Statistics. The current document summarizes the findings of the self-assessment process of MSc. Statistics. The process includes:

1. **Self-Assessment Report (SAR)** development by Program Team (PT).
2. **Assessment Report (AR)** by Assessment Team (AT) after critical evaluation.
3. **Rectification Plan** administered by the Head of Department.

Methodology

The Department adopted the identical methodology defined by the Quality Assurance Agency of HEC. The methodology includes the nomination and notification of PT and AT after the approval of the competent authority. PT developed the SAR in accordance with eight (8) criteria provided by QAA. Various recommended surveys were also conducted for collecting diverse feedback. A meeting was arranged for critical evaluation of the program by AT in which Head of Mathematics & Statistics Department and staff of Directorate of Quality Enhancement were also present. After the visit, AT submitted a report and feedback form (Rubric Form) to DQE. Based on the findings of AT, the Head of Mathematics & Statistics Department was requested to develop a rectification plan.

Program Team and Assessment Team Formation

Sr.#	Name	Status	Designation
1.	Dr. Amber Asghar	PT	Lecturer, Department of Statistics, Virtual University of Pakistan
2.	Dr. Sharoon Hanook	AT	Assistant Professor & Chairperson, Department of Statistics, Forman Christian College

Key Findings of the SAR:

The AT appreciated the efforts of PT to develop such a comprehensive report of the 'MSc. Statistics' program. The external expert endorsed the program structure and study scheme designed by the department. The infrastructure and support provided by the university to execute the program were also reviewed and considered compatible with smoothing execution of the program. However, the following few observations were reported by AT in its report:

1. The mission, Vision statement, and objectives need to be redesign for the program of M.Sc Statistics need to be rewritten by bringing more clarity and cohesiveness

2. The curriculum should be carefully revised keeping in view the standards devised by the accreditation body, the courses offered should be relevant to statistics, that teaching other general courses.
3. Course outlines with updated references, learning objectives and outcome should be updated in this document and also should be made available to the students.
4. Department has the deficiency of books relevant to their programs. A separate library should be established in the main library with a large collection of books. For the purchase of books department own purchase committee should be constituted.
5. Software tutorials must be prepared by the lab courses teachers.
6. Updated and licensed statistical software should be installed in the computer systems of laboratories.
7. For the career counseling of student's seminars and workshops should be organized at least once in a semester and experts from industries and organizations should be invited.
8. There should be a proper way of interaction between students and teachers by arranging proper counseling and tutorial programs.
9. Students should be provided better internet connectivity.
10. Faculty must update themselves with new techniques and innovations also enhance their knowledge by participating in more professional development activities.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Analysis of the Criteria Referenced Self-Assessment reveals that performance of the department is good in most of the areas, however, poor performance has been observed in the areas i.e. Criterion 1 (Programme Mission Objectives and Outcomes) and Criterion 7 (Institutional Facilities). The program has secured overall good assessment score (73/100) reported by AT.

In accordance with AT report, it has been found that criteria 1 & 7 need improvement which is about program mission, objectives and outcome, and institutional support with special emphasis on providing library facilities to student and faculty members.

The areas that need corrective actions identified during the self-assessment process have been reported to the Head of the respective Department for rectification. DQE will follow up on the implementation plan as per the specific time-frame to track continuous improvement.



Mehboob Ahmed Khatri
Manager QA